

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2007. By the present Amendment, the title has been amended in response to the objection set forth in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Therefore, removal of this objection is respectfully requested. Also, claims 18, 21 and 24 have each been amended to respond to the objection to these claims by clarifying that these claims are directed to the reading method according to claim 14 rather than the IC tag according to claim 10. As such, claims 18, 21 and 24 are no longer duplicates of claims 11, 12 and 13. Therefore, removal of the claim objection is also respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and removal of the 35 USC §1.112, first paragraph, rejection is also respectfully requested. By the present Amendment, the claims have been amended to clarify that only a single memory is claimed (corresponding, for example, to the memory 16 shown in figures such as Figs. 1 and 2). As shown in Fig. 2, for example, the memory 16 is capable of storing an identification number 17, a first random number 11 and a second random number 22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that support exists for the presently amended claims, and, accordingly, reconsideration and removal of the 35 USC §112, paragraph one, rejection is also respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and removal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of independent claims 7 and 14, and dependent claims 8, 9, 15, 19, 20, 22 and 23 as being

anticipated by USP 6,002,344 to Bandy is also respectfully requested. With regard to this, it is noted that the present claims clearly define an arrangement in which a counter (e.g., such as the counter 13 shown in Figs. 1 and 2) operates as a memory address counter, with a count value thereof indicating a bit address of a memory (e.g., 16). This is discussed, for example, in the Published Application 2006/114103 of the present application in paragraphs [0034], [0037]-[0038], [0041]-[0042] and [0051].

On pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, it is indicated that Bandy discloses that the first information stored in the bit address of the first memory indicated by the count value is sent out to a reception unit successively via a tag transmitting the tag ID or a manufacturer number or a lot number when the counter output matches any one of the tag ID or manufacturer number or lot number. Column 7, lines 22-33 is referred to regarding this. However, it is respectfully submitted that this interpretation of the disclosure of Bandy is actually incorrect, and that the reference fails to teach or suggest the present claim limitations concerning the claimed features.

In the first place, the counter/shift register 312 of Bandy simply functions as a normal shift register and does not function as a memory address counter indicating a memory address of a memory, as required by the claims. With regard to this, the enable signal is selected by a control line 322 to cause the shift register 312 to shift its contents (e.g., the Tag ID) to a modulator 320 for transmission to a tag reader 104, as described in column 5, lines 18-20. The enable signal causes the counter/shift register 312 to shift the count, which is equivalent to the manufacture

number, to the modulator 320 for transmission to the reader. By virtue of this, the manufacturer number of a tag can be transmitted to a tag reader 104 when the count reaches the manufacturer number (as discussed in column 5, lines 27-32 of the bandy patent). Therefore, clearly the counter/shift register of Bandy operates simply as a typical shift register, not as a memory address counter indicating a memory address of a memory.

In addition, the Office Action states on page 5, lines 1-3 with regard to claim 7, that the IC tag carries out count-up and count-down of a count value of the counter according to a clock signal received from the reception unit. Applicants respectfully submit that this is also an inaccurate interpretation of the Bandy reference with regard to the present claimed invention. In the present invention, the counter (e.g., 13) counts clocks from a reception unit (e.g., 48), without the need for commands, instructions or a decoding circuit (e.g., see Published Application 2006/114103, paragraph [0022]). In Bandy, on the other hand, a count instruction is required to cause the counter/shift registers 312 to increment. In addition, an instruction interpreter 310 is required (as disclosed in column 4, lines 41-43 and lines 57-59). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that both the circuitry and operation of Bandy is quite different than the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the amended independent claims 7 and 14 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.


Reconsideration and allowance of the dependent claims 10-13, 16-18, 21 and 24 is also respectfully requested over the combinations of Bandy with either Raimbault (USP 6,177,858) or Chan (USP 5,550,547). Although the secondary

references are of general interest, none of them teach or suggest anything with regard to making up for the shortcomings of the cited primary reference to Bandy noted above. Therefore, it is urged that the overall combinations defined by these dependent claims even further serve to define over the cited prior art, notwithstanding the citation of the secondary art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these dependent claims is also respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 843.45150X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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